

What is claimed is:

1. A method for a user to develop a travel plan having at least two travel components, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of parameters on which each said travel component is parameterized by at least one of said plurality of parameters, wherein each said parameter is associated with an initial range of values;

(b) providing first means for choosing by user, a value for a first parameter;

(c) determining the respective ranges of values of all parameters other than said first parameter, responsively to said chosen first parameter value according to predefined relationships between said other parameters and said first parameter; and

(d) presenting to the user said determined range of values for said other parameters.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(e) providing second means for choosing by user, a value for a second parameter from its range of values determined as aforementioned;

(f) determining the respective ranges of values of all other parameters, responsively to said chosen second parameter value, according to predefined relationships between said second parameter and all other parameters, wherein said first and second choosing means are on different physical or computer sites.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of determining the respective ranges determines the respective ranges of parameters including those for which a value has already been chosen.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said travel plan has three travel components.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said first parameter is a destination.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said second parameter is an arrival date at said destination and a departure date from said destination.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the range of selections determined for goods or services satisfying said chosen values of first and second parameters, is presented to the user in association with a multimedia presentation.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said first choosing means is operated by a travel service provider.
9. The method of claims 1-8, further comprising:
  - (g) providing means for amending a chosen value of a parameter, wherein amendment thereof automatically amends the values of all previously chosen values for parameters according to predefined relationships all other parameters and said parameter whose value was amended.
10. A method for a user to develop a travel plan having at least three travel components comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a plurality of parameters on which each said travel component is parameterized by at least one of said plurality of parameters, wherein each said parameter is associated with an initial range of values;
  - (b) providing means for choosing by user, a value for a destination;

(c) determining the respective ranges of values of all parameters other than said first parameter, responsively to said chosen destination according to predefined relationships between said other parameters and said destination; and

(d) presenting to the user said determined range of values for said other parameters.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

(e) providing means for choosing by user, a value for an arrival date and a departure date;

(f) determining the respective ranges of values of all parameters, responsively to said arrival date and departure date and said destination.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

(g) providing means for choosing by user, the value of a parameter for activities at said destination;

(h) determining the respective ranges of values of all parameters, responsively to said destination, said arrival date and departure date and said chosen values for activities.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein values for other parameters associated in predefined relationships with said chosen parameter, defaults to a value determined by said previously chosen values.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

(i) providing means for choosing by user, the value for a parameter for lodging, said parameters for lodging comprising at least two of: price range; type of lodging; location within said destination; and type of room;

(j) determining the respective ranges of values of all other parameters for lodging, responsively to said chosen values for parameters, according to predefined relationships.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

(i) providing means for developing a user profile;

(j) determining the respective ranges of values of all other parameters, responsively to said chosen user profile parameter.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(c) providing means for the user to save said travel plan for subsequent access.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein said first parameter is a budget for the plan.

18. A method for a user having personal information, to develop a travel plan, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing means for developing a user profile;

(b) providing means for developing by user, the travel plan wholly or partially, in conjunction with said user profile;

(c) providing means for confirming by user said developed travel plan, wherein content of said user profile is under the control of the user throughout the development of the travel plan, and includes personal information or not as controlled by the user, and wherein the user is required to include personal information in said user profile only to confirm said developed travel plan.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of providing means for saving said developed travel plan and for subsequent retrieving by user for further development or confirmation.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing the user means for creating an identity for association with said travel plan for purposes of saving and retrieving said travel plan.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said identity is not related to said user's true identity.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising providing means for amending, by user, said user profile to include or remove personal information from said user profile at any time before confirming the plan.

23. A method for assisting a user to obtain goods or services via a computer user interface, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying in a first window on said user interface, a plurality of goods or services for selection;

(b) providing a multimedia presentation associated with a first goods or services;

(c) providing means for presenting said multimedia presentation to the user in a second window; and

(d) providing means for selecting goods or services to obtain via said second window on said user interface.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

(e) providing means for presenting, in said second window, a second multimedia presentation associated with a second goods or services.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said goods or services are related to lodgings.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said multimedia presentation is an interior view of a lodging.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein said goods or services are related to recreational activities.

28. A method for a user to select a round trip air travel package, comprising:

(a) the user providing a departure location, a destination, a departure date, and a return date;

(b) determining at least a departing flight and a returning flight consistent with said departure and return dates, said destination and said departure location;

(c) grouping said departing flights and said returning flights according to the price of pairs of said departure flights and arrival flights;

(d) displaying said groups of departure flights and return flights to the user;

(e) providing means for selecting by user, a departing flight and a returning flight from one of said groups.

29. A system for providing interaction between a vacation sales consultant and a user comprising:

(a) a first computer connected to a network and operable by the vacation sales consultant;

(b) a second computer connected to a network and operable by the user;

(c) means for developing a travel plan by the vacation sales consultant on said first computer for subsequent transfer to and display on said second computer;

(d) means for the user to change directly said travel plan on said second computer,

30. The system of claim 29, wherein said means for developing travel plan is implemented by the method of claim 1.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein said travel plan is a web page at a website and accessible and displayable on said second computer.

32. The system of claim 31, further comprising means for securing access to said travel plan with a key, and wherein said travel plan is accessible and displayable at the web site by the user only via user use of said key.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein said travel plan is saved for future use.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein the user may access said saved travel plan.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein said changed travel plan is accessible by the vacation sales consultant.

36. A method for an aggregator to sell its package of component goods or services, to a customer, comprising the steps of:

(a) an aggregator supplying a provider of component goods or services, with means for selling the package, wherein the package includes said provider's component goods or services;

(b) the customer purchasing the package via said selling means;

(c) said provider sharing with said aggregator the revenue received in association with said purchase of package.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein said selling means includes customer planning means for organizing said package's component goods or services into categories, for associating said provider's component goods or services with a particular category, and for making available for purchase only said provider's component goods or services for said category.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein said provider retains that portion of said revenue associated with said provider's component goods or services, and said aggregator retains the remainder of said revenue.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein said selling means is customized to suit said provider.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein said package is a travel plan and said provider is one that provides a travel component which is the only component in its category made available for purchase.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said package is a computer system and said provider is one that provides one of the hardware or software components of the computer system, which is the only component in its category made available for purchase.

42. A computer system for a user using a web site for the development of plan to obtain goods or services, comprising:

- (a) means for organizing the goods or services into categories;
- (b) means for determining the goods or services that are available for user to choose;
- (c) user means for choosing goods or services from said available goods or services;



(d) user interface means, for providing in a summary bar: (i) means for displaying information about each category of goods or services, each said category information being also a link to additional information about each said category and to said choosing means; and (ii) means for displaying summary information of chosen goods or services.

43. The system of claim 42, further comprises:

(f) means for parameterizing each goods or services; and

(g) user means for selecting values for said parameters;

and wherein said availability determining means operates on the values selected previously for one or more of said parameters.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein said summary information of chosen goods or services includes the associated price(s).

45. The system of claim 44, further comprising budgeting means for accumulating the price of each said chosen goods or services into a running total price and including said running total price in said summary information.

46. The system of claim 45, further comprising means for user changing a selected value, wherein all consequential amendments are automatically effected and said navigation bar means displays updated selections and total price.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein goods or services which are not available are still displayed but said link is not active for said unavailable goods or services.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein said service is a travel plan.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein said goods is a computer system.